

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 7, 2019

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Republican Leader McCarthy:

Thank you for your leadership to help New Yorkers through the COVID-19 public health emergency. As you know, New York State is at the epicenter of the nation's coronavirus outbreak with hundreds of thousands of cases and tens of thousands of fatalities. The Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act (P.L. 116-123), Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127), and the Coronavirus, Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act (P.L. 116-136) have provided much needed support for our hospitals to treat and care for New Yorkers infected by the coronavirus. The Medicare accelerated/advanced payments, authorized in the CARES Act, have been a lifeline for many hospitals in our state, but need to be repaid with steep interest. We write to you today as Members of the New York Delegation respectfully asking that in the next stimulus package you provide loan forgiveness in the Medicare accelerated/advanced payment program.

Every New York hospital has made significant financial investments to prepare for the surge of coronavirus patients. Since the start of the pandemic, these safety-net organizations have rapidly added beds in intensive care units, built new isolation units to treat COVID-19 patients, and bought personal protective equipment at record prices. In addition, many New York hospitals are providing additional services such as housing and childcare to support the brave physicians, nurses, and frontline health care workers who are making tremendous sacrifices every day to care for their fellow New Yorkers. Furthermore, New York hospitals have not been permitted to do non-emergent procedures. These actions were appropriate for COVID-19 patients and to bend the curve of the pandemic, but those efforts were tremendously costly and the financial toll continues to accumulate.

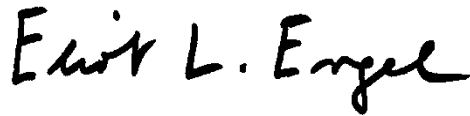
Our hospitals are reporting, on average, revenue losses of over 40% during the latter part of just March. As a result of these losses, and the extraordinary expenses to handle the surge of COVID-19 patients, our hospitals have experienced sustained losses of at least \$750 million per week in the first few weeks of this pandemic. As COVID-19 cases surged in April, we expect that number to increase. We have already seen the impact of this fiscal stress which has forced many of our hospitals to take funding advances and loans, delay accounts payables, furlough thousands of staff and postpone much-needed capital projects.

While the recent appropriations to the Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund, under the CARES Act as well as the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act (P.L. 116-139), will be helpful to New York hospitals, unfortunately it will not be enough to support them through the remainder of this pandemic. In addition, given the financial devastation we have seen in each of our districts, our hospitals are in no position to pay back these loans. Without additional federal support, New

York hospitals will be forced to make difficult decisions, including reducing critical health care services and laying off essential health care workers.

As you draft the next stimulus package, we urge you to provide additional relief for New York hospitals by providing loan forgiveness in the Medicare accelerated/advanced payment program. Thank you for your attention to this matter and we stand ready to work with you in anyway necessary to support our state's hospitals and health care workers.

Sincerely,



Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress



Elise Stefanik
Member of Congress



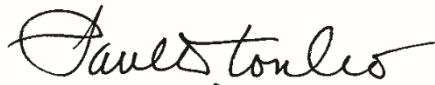
Tom Reed
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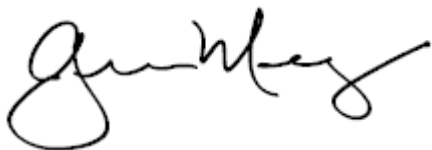
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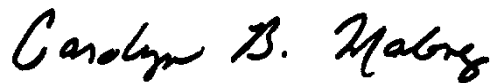
Brian Higgins
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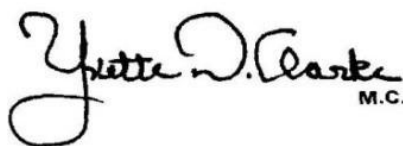
Kathleen M. Rice
Member of Congress



Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress

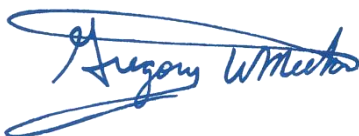


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